

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# In vitro coupled motions of the whole human thoracic and lumbar spine with rib cage

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## Abstract

**Study design:** In vitro biomechanical study investigating the coupled motions of the whole normative human thoracic spine (TS) and lumbar spine (LS) with rib cage.

**Objective:** To quantify the region-specific coupled motion patterns and magnitudes of the TS, thoracolumbar junction (TLJ), and LS simultaneously.

**Background:** Studying spinal coupled motions is important in understanding the development of complex spinal deformities and providing data for validating computational models. However, coupled motion patterns reported in vitro are controversial, and no quantitative data on region-specific coupled motions of the whole human TS and LS are available.

**Methods:** Pure, unconstrained bending moments of 8 Nm were applied to seven fresh-frozen human cadaveric TS and LS specimens (mean age: 70.3 ± 11.3 years) with rib cages to elicit flexion-extension (FE), lateral bending (LB), and axial rotation (AR). During each primary motion, region-specific rotational range of motion (ROM) data were captured.

**Results:** No statistically significant, consistent coupled motion patterns were observed during primary FE. During primary LB, there was significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) ipsilateral AR in the TS and a general pattern of contralateral coupled AR in the TLJ and LS. There was also a tendency for the TS to extend and the LS to flex. During primary AR, significant coupled LB was ipsilateral in the TS and contralateral in both the TLJ and LS. Significant coupled flexion in the LS was also observed. Coupled LB and AR ROMs were not significantly different between the TS and LS or from one another.

**Conclusions:** The findings support evidence of consistent coupled motion patterns of the TS and LS during LB and AR. These novel data may serve as reference for computational model validations and future in vitro studies investigating spinal deformities and implants.

## KEYWORDS

axial rotation, biomechanics, coupled motion, extension, flexion, in vitro, kinematics, lateral bending, lumbar spine, range of motion, thoracic spine, thoracolumbar junction

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## 1 | INTRODUCTION

Studies have reported evidence of spinal coupled motions for over a century. As early as 1905, a landmark spinal kinematics study by Lovett<sup>1</sup> qualitatively demonstrated mechanical coupled motions of the human spine in both cadaveric specimens and living subjects. Coupled motions are defined as secondary movements that consistently accompany a primary motion. The two spinal motions most prominently reported to be coupled are lateral bending (LB) and axial rotation (AR). Studying this coupled motion behavior in the whole thoracic spine (TS) and lumbar spine (LS) is especially of interest, as it may aid in better understanding the development of scoliosis.<sup>1-4</sup> Specifically, the natural coupled motions of the spine are thought to remain present in and contribute to the formation of scoliotic deformities, as there is a correlation between the magnitudes of coronal curvature and accompanying AR in the scoliotic spine.<sup>4</sup> The study of spinal coupled motions is also thought to have clinical utility in the diagnosis of spinal instability due to trauma or degeneration.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, abnormalities in coupled motions have been previously reported in patients suffering from back pain.<sup>6,7</sup> However, to identify abnormal patterns, it is important to first quantify normal coupled motions.

Despite how long spinal coupled motions have been a topic of study, the contributing factors are still not well understood. Thus, in addition to developing mathematical models,<sup>8,9</sup> *in vitro* studies are performed to understand the sole influence of structural and osteoligamentous factors as well as sagittal posture on coupled motion patterns without considering the effects of the neuromuscular system. Such *in vitro* studies have discovered that the complex anatomical shapes of functional spinal units (FSUs)—especially the multiplanar facet joint orientations, including the sagittal angles that they form—contribute to spinal coupled motions.<sup>10</sup> Although there is a consensus about *in vitro* coupled motion patterns of the LS,<sup>11-13</sup> controversy still exists about such patterns of the TS<sup>10,14,15</sup> despite the more controlled *in vitro* test conditions. Furthermore, previous *in vitro* studies have analyzed coupled motion patterns of only the TS,<sup>10,16</sup> thoracolumbar junction (TLJ),<sup>17</sup> or LS.<sup>11-13</sup> To the authors' knowledge, no quantitative data exist on *in vitro* region-specific coupled motions of the whole human TS and LS (T1-L5) with rib cage. Such kinematics data may be used to validate computational models of the spine<sup>18-20</sup> that predict the performance of implants and surgical interventions, and to better understand spinal biomechanics in deformity,<sup>21-23</sup> degeneration, and trauma<sup>24-28</sup> as well as the biofidelity of surrogate animal spine models.<sup>29</sup>

Therefore, the objective of this *in vitro* biomechanical study is to quantify the coupled motions of the whole human TS and LS with rib cage. Such data will help better understand the regional differences in spinal coupled motion patterns and magnitudes.

## 2 | MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 2.1 | Specimen preparation

Seven fresh-frozen human cadaveric TS and LS (T1-L5) specimens with rib cage (mean age: 70.3 ± 11.3 years, mean T-score: -2.4 ± 1.1)

underwent range of motion (ROM) testing. However, one specimen did not include vertebral levels T1-T2 and another did not include T1-T3 (Table 1). Since testing involved applying an unconstrained, pure moment that is presumed to be uniform in magnitude at every level of the spine,<sup>30</sup> regardless of the number of involved FSUs, all specimens were included in this study. Upon radiographic screening, no specimens exhibited signs of trauma, fractures, malignancy, or deformity (e.g., collapsed discs, osteophytes, or facet joint hypertrophy) that would otherwise affect spinal kinematics.

During dissection, the surrounding musculature was carefully removed while the pertinent intervertebral discs, osteoligamentous structures, and joint capsules were preserved. Afterward, the cranial-most and L5 vertebrae were potted parallel to their endplates using a 1:1 mixture of Bondo body filler and fiberglass resin (Bondo Mar-Hyde Corp.). Before potting, screws were inserted into these vertebrae to improve fixation inside the mixture. For some specimens, resection of a portion of the most cephalad rib necks was required so that the corresponding, uppermost vertebrae could be adequately potted. Since the initial sagittal posture affects the pattern and magnitude of observed coupled motions of the TS<sup>31</sup> and LS,<sup>13</sup> thoracic kyphosis (T5-T12) and lumbar lordosis (L1-L5) were measured using the modified Cobb method to assess the neutral posture of each specimen in the upright position. These sagittal angles, as well as the demographic and anthropometric measurements for each specimen, are provided in Table 1.

### 2.2 | Motion data collection

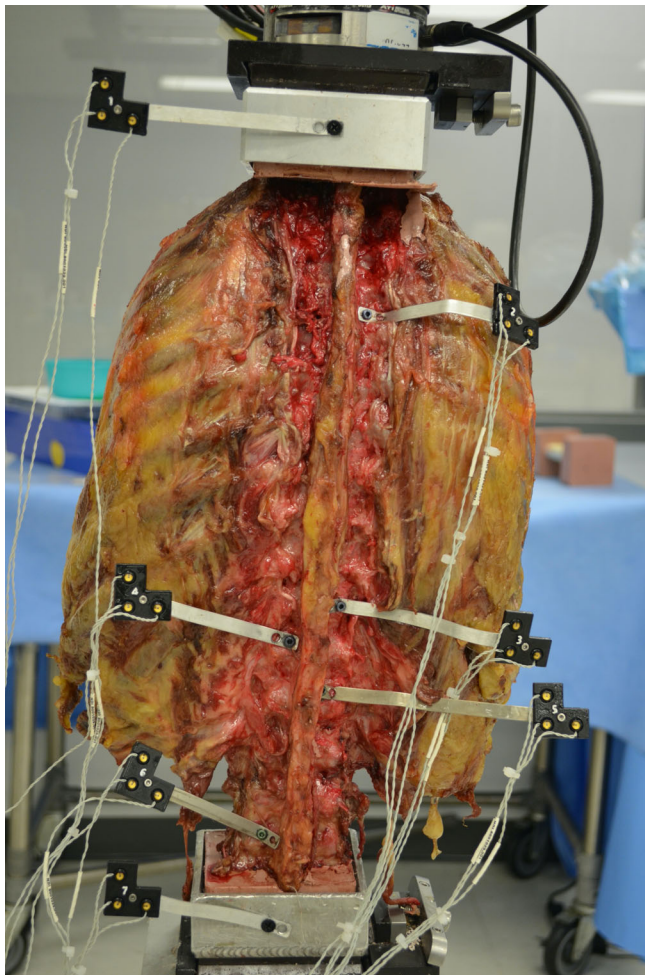
After being thawed overnight at room temperature, each specimen was mounted on a custom six-degrees-of-freedom (6DOF) spine motion simulator at the potted superior and inferior vertebral ends for ROM testing. Utilizing three servoelectric motors and near-frictionless air bearings, the 6DOF spine motion simulator applied pure, unconstrained bending moments of ±8 Nm, which is within the range of previously reported values,<sup>15,17,32-34</sup> at an angular displacement rate of 1 °/s<sup>35</sup> along each cardinal plane to elicit flexion-extension (FE), LB, and AR motions. For each primary motion, the first two loading/unloading cycles were performed to precondition and account for viscoelastic effects, and the third cycle was considered for analysis.<sup>33</sup> All specimens were kept hydrated using saline solution (0.9%) throughout testing to retain viscoelastic properties.

To capture the region-specific motion data from each specimen using the motion analysis system (Optotrak Certus<sup>®</sup>; Northern Digital, Inc.), markers (each containing three infrared light-emitting diodes) were rigidly affixed to the superior and inferior pots of T1 and L5, as well as to the T12 and L1 vertebrae, using bone screws (Figure 1). The Optotrak Certus<sup>®</sup> system superimposes the coordinate systems of two markers (i.e., vertebral bodies) to yield relative Eulerian rotation angles in each of the three planes of motion at a data sampling frequency of 100 Hz. The system's reported resolution, and rotation and translational accuracies, are 0.01 mm,<sup>36</sup> 0.05°, and 0.03 mm,<sup>37</sup> respectively.

**TABLE 1** Demographic and anthropometric values of each specimen and the vertebral levels each specimen is comprised of. Thoracic kyphosis and lumbar lordosis angles are also provided.

Specimen no.	Age (years)	Sex	Height (cm)	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Vertebral levels	Thoracic kyphosis (°)	Lumbar lordosis (°)
1	87	Female	160.0	20.4	T1–L5	30.1	24.3
2	64	Male	167.6	16.2	T1–L5	40.7	21.2
3	79	Female	167.6	35.6	T1–L5	25.9	27.2
4	80	Female	165.1	25.0	T3–L5	32.0	26.7
5	62	Female	175.3	37.0	T4–L5	15.6	19.4
6	61	Male	175.3	15.7	T1–L5	41.8	25.5
7	59	Female	172.7	27.4	T1–L5	38.8	26.1

Abbreviation: BMI, body mass index.



**FIGURE 1** Range of motion (ROM) test setup for whole thoracic and lumbar spine specimen 3. The specimen is mounted to a custom six-degrees-of-freedom (6DOF) spine motion simulator at the potted T1 and L5 vertebral levels. Markers pertinent to this study were affixed at T1 (potted), T12, L1, and L5 (potted) vertebral levels to collect region-specific rotational range of motion data using the Optotrak Certus<sup>®</sup> motion analysis system (Northern Digital Inc.).

### 2.3 | Data analysis

From the collected relative rotational motion data, the ranges of both the primary and coupled motions occurring in the TS (T1–T12), TLJ

(T12–L1), and LS (L1–L5) were calculated and plotted using MATLAB R2018b (The MathWorks, Inc.). Each range of coupled motion was then expressed as a percentage of the range of the respective primary motion, and the Shapiro–Wilk test was performed to check for normality. After determining that the data followed non-normal distributions, Wilcoxon signed-rank tests were performed to identify statistically significant coupled motions occurring during the positive and negative directions of primary motion. All statistics were calculated using SPSS v16.0 (IBM Corp.), with a  $p$  value of  $<0.05$  considered statistically significant.

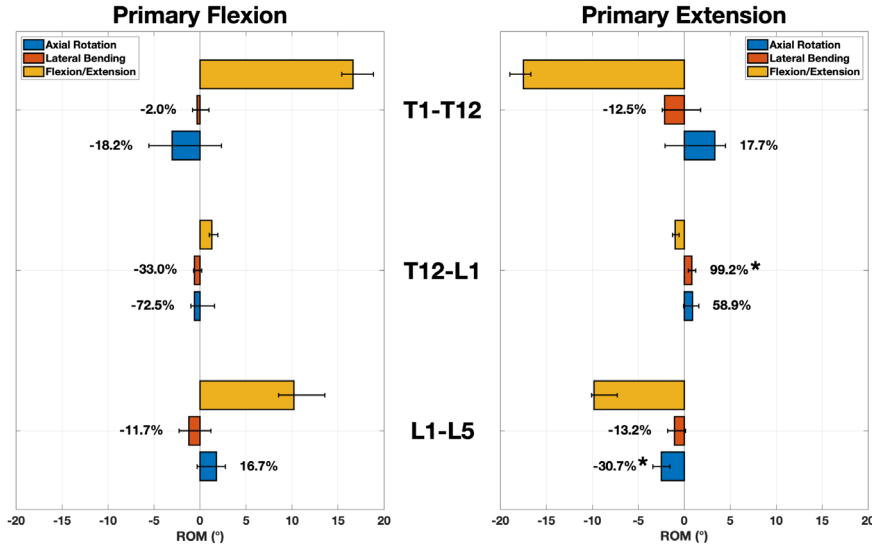
## 3 | RESULTS

Bar plots summarizing the median values and interquartile ranges (Table A1) of the primary and coupled motions of the TS, TLJ, and LS are provided in Figure 2. Only TLJ and LS kinematic data were collected from specimens 4 and 5 as they were potted below T1. Exemplar moment-angular displacement curves of whole TS and LS (T1–L5) coupled motions occurring during each primary motion over the duration of the third loading/unloading cycle are shown in Figure 3. On average, the contributions of the TS, TLJ, and LS to the overall primary flexion ROM of the whole spine were 59.2%, 5.9%, and 34.8%, respectively. No statistically significant coupled motions were observed during primary flexion. The average contributions of the TS, TLJ, and LS to the overall primary extension ROM were 66.1%, 3.4%, and 30.5%, respectively. During primary extension, unexpected statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) coupled right LB and AR occurred in the TLJ and LS, respectively.

On average, the contributions of the TS, TLJ, and LS to the overall primary LB ROM of the whole spine were 60.2%, 3.6%, and 36.2%, respectively. The only statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) coupled motion that occurred during primary LB was ipsilateral AR in the TS. However, a general trend of contralateral coupled AR in the TLJ and LS was observed. Additionally, there were general tendencies for the TS to extend and the LS to flex.

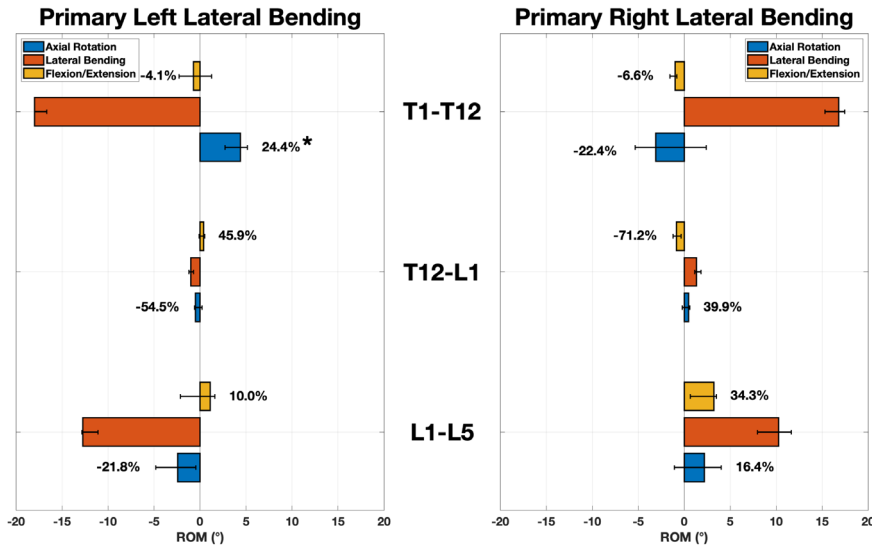
On average, the contributions of the TS, TLJ, and LS to the overall primary AR ROM of the whole spine were 69.3%, 4.5%, and 26.2%, respectively. Statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) coupled LB patterns occurred in all three regions during primary AR; the coupled LB was in the ipsilateral direction in the TS and in the contralateral direction in both the TLJ and LS. There was also statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) coupled FE in the TLJ, but in no specific direction. There was no generally

**Region-Specific Coupled Motions**

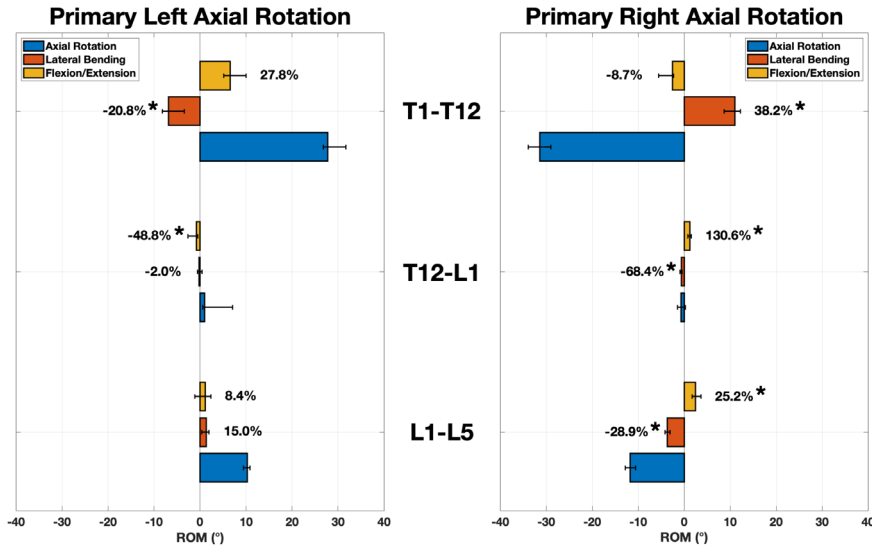


**FIGURE 2** Median values and interquartile ranges (represented by the error bars) of thoracic (T1-T12,  $n = 5$ ), thoracolumbar junction (T12-L1,  $n = 7$ ), and lumbar (L1-L5,  $n = 7$ ) coupled motions during the positive and negative directions of each primary motion. Flexion, right lateral bending, and left axial rotation are in the positive direction. Extension, left lateral bending, and right axial rotation are in the negative direction. Median values of the coupled motions expressed as percentages of their respective primary motion magnitudes are also provided. \* $p < 0.05$ .

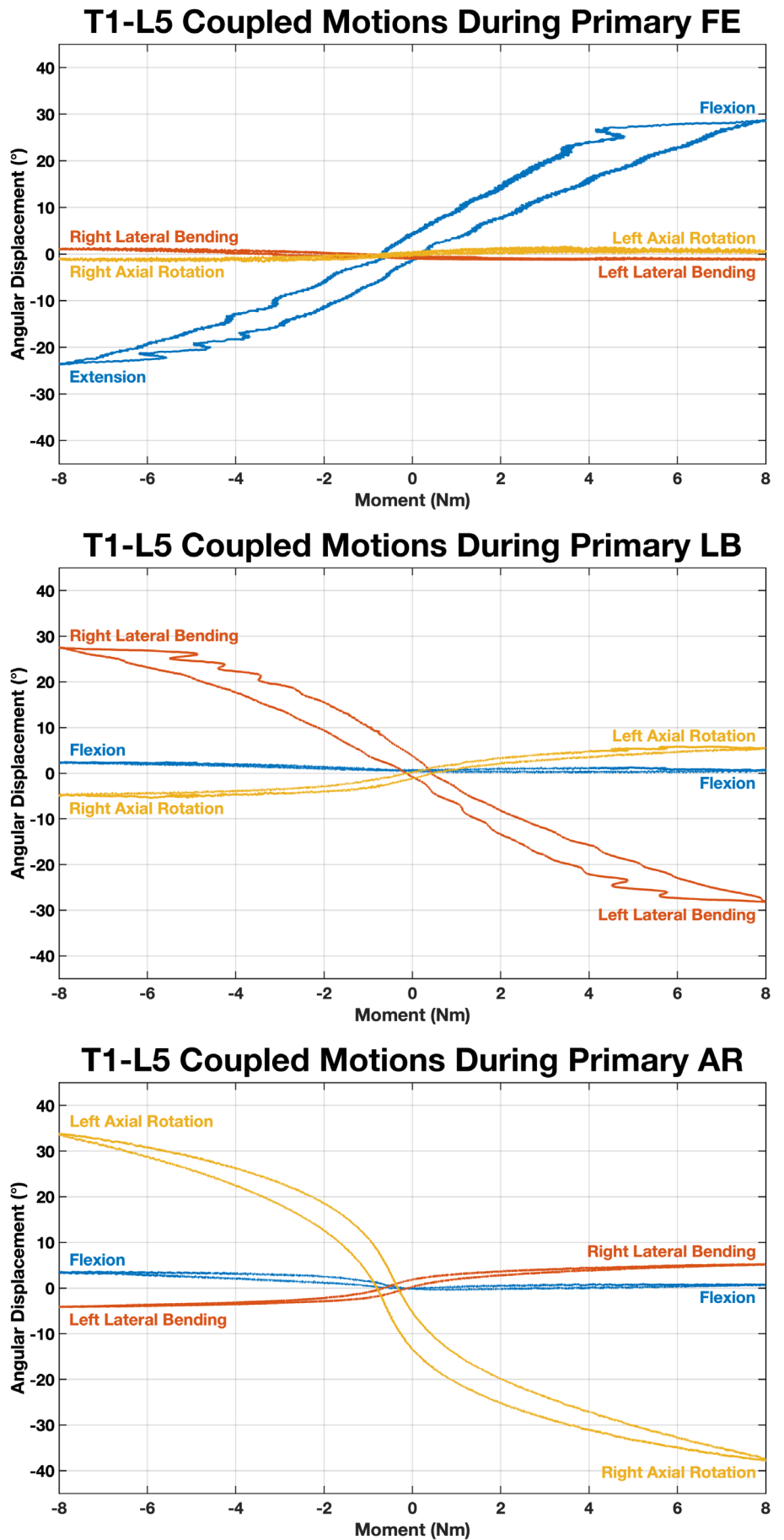
**Segment-Specific Coupling Motions**



**Region-Specific Coupled Motions**



**FIGURE 3** Exemplar moment-angular displacement curves of whole thoracic and lumbar (T1-L5) spinal coupled motions during primary flexion-extension (FE), lateral bending (LB), and axial rotation (AR) obtained from specimen 3 during the third unloading/loading cycle of pure, unconstrained bending moments of  $\pm 8$  Nm.



consistent coupled FE pattern in the TS, but there was statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) coupled flexion in the LS.

## 4 | DISCUSSION

### 4.1 | Coupled motion patterns of the TS, TLJ, and LS

To the authors' knowledge, this is the first *in vitro* study to quantify the coupled motions of the whole human TS and LS (T1–L5) with rib cage. [TS] Several previous *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies concur with the current findings. Liebsch et al.,<sup>10</sup> under similar *in vitro* testing conditions, found no statistically significant TS-coupled motion patterns during primary FE. That study also reported general coupled extension and ipsilateral AR during primary LB in addition to an inconsistent pattern of coupled FE during primary AR. Ipsilateral coupled AR during primary LB was also reported *in vivo*; however, most of the TS underwent flexion.<sup>38</sup> Ipsilateral coupled LB during primary AR was also previously reported *in vivo*.<sup>39,40</sup> However, there are few contrasting reports in the literature. Contralateral coupled AR during primary LB in upper thoracic, four-vertebra specimens with rib cages,<sup>15</sup> and contralateral coupled LB primary AR<sup>10</sup> were reported *in vitro*.

[TLJ] In agreement with the current results, inconsistent TLJ-coupled motion patterns during primary FE have been reported both *in vitro*<sup>17</sup> and *in vivo*.<sup>41</sup> During primary LB, no consistent coupled FE and a general contralateral pattern of coupled AR were reported *in vitro*<sup>17</sup> and *in vivo*,<sup>42</sup> respectively. During primary AR, contralateral coupled LB was reported *in vivo*.<sup>39</sup> However, some studies do not concur with the current findings. During primary LB, while no consistent coupled AR<sup>17</sup> was observed *in vitro*, a trend of coupled extension<sup>38,41</sup> and an ipsilateral pattern of coupled AR<sup>38</sup> were observed *in vivo*. During primary AR, a trend of coupled flexion was reported both *in vitro*<sup>17</sup> and *in vivo*,<sup>39,41</sup> and an ipsilateral coupled LB pattern was reported *in vitro*.<sup>17</sup>

[LS] In agreement with the current findings, previous *in vitro* studies have reported inconsistent LS-coupled motion patterns<sup>11,12</sup> during primary FE. The contralateral relationship between LB and AR in the LS was also previously reported *in vitro*<sup>11–13</sup> and *in vivo*.<sup>43,44</sup> Coupled flexion during both primary LB and primary AR has also been reported in previous *in vitro* studies.<sup>11–13</sup> Contrastingly, consistent coupled extension during primary LB, and an inconsistent pattern of coupled FE during primary AR were reported *in vivo*.<sup>43</sup>

In general, it is difficult to directly compare results from *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies due to differences in loading, anatomical constraints, and boundary conditions. While *in vivo* studies offer the advantage of intact anatomical structures in their *in situ* loading environment, they are challenged by limited measurement modalities<sup>42</sup> and variance in participant age, anthropometry, personal comfort, and sagittal posture. Although not directly clinically relevant, *in vitro* studies offer the ability to controllably preposition the spine and apply known loads to measure kinematics, as well as to isolate the effects of

structural and osteoligamentous factors without neuromuscular contributions.

### 4.2 | Coupled motion etiology

The bending mechanics of a C-shaped, circular rod of uniform cross-section (C-rod) can help explain spinal coupled motions. Intuitively, bending in the plane of the C-rod's curvature would solely cause in-plane primary FE without coupled LB or AR motions. In the current study, the inconsistent coupled motions observed during primary FE may be explained by slight coronal spinal curvatures, transverse plane spinal pre-rotation,<sup>45,46</sup> and deviations of vertebral alignment within the potting fixtures. With the concavity of the C-rod facing forward (i.e., a kyphotic curve) and the bottom end held fixed, an LB moment applied to the top of the C-rod will result in ipsilateral bending (i.e., the primary motion) with a concomitant ipsilateral AR (i.e., the coupled motion). On the other hand, with the convexity of the C-rod facing forward (i.e., a lordotic curve) and the bottom end held fixed, an LB moment applied to the top of the C-rod will result in ipsilateral bending with a concomitant contralateral AR. The aforementioned phenomena can help explain the observed ipsilateral thoracic and contralateral lumbar coupling between LB and AR.

Similarly, the human spine can be considered a rod that is S-shaped and segmented with non-uniform cross-section and varying anatomical constraints (i.e., intervertebral discs, facet joints, and spinal ligaments) that are symmetric only about the mid-sagittal plane. For these reasons, we theorize that significant coupled motions will only consistently occur in the normative human spine during primary LB and AR in the coronal and transverse planes, respectively, but not during primary FE in the mid-sagittal plane. Furthermore, we speculate that the thoracic extension and lumbar flexion tendencies observed during primary LB cause compression of the posterior thoracic vertebral structures and unloading of the posterior lumbar vertebral structures that further promote ipsilateral and contralateral coupled AR in the TS and LS, respectively. Similar speculation can be made for the coupled lumbar flexion observed during primary AR.

As the 6DOF spine motion simulator applied an unconstrained pure moment, slight coronal spinal curvatures, the slight pre-rotated structure of the spine in the transverse plane,<sup>45,46</sup> and deviations of vertebral alignment within the potting fixtures may have induced the unexpected, inconsistent coupled motion patterns that were observed during primary FE as well as the asymmetric coupled magnitudes that occurred during primary LB and AR (i.e., the statistically significant coupled motions during only one direction of primary LB and AR). It was expected for such motions to be statistically significant in both directions because of the anatomical symmetry of the spine across the midsagittal plane. Therefore, it is expected that future work with larger sample sizes will identify the consistent coupled motion patterns reported herein to be statistically significant in both directions of primary LB and AR. In addition, the variance in coupled motion patterns may be attributed to differences between specimens related to

vertebral body and disc morphology, as well as facet joint asymmetry.<sup>31</sup>

### 4.3 | Evaluation and influence of sagittal posture

The initial sagittal posture has been reported to influence the magnitude and pattern of observed coupled motions of the TS<sup>31</sup> and LS.<sup>13</sup> All specimens in this study exhibited thoracic kyphosis within the normal range of 10–40°,<sup>47</sup> except for specimens 2 and 6 which had slightly hyperkyphotic TSs with angles of 40.7° and 41.8°, respectively. Considering that the incidence of hyperkyphosis above 60 years of age is 20–40%,<sup>48</sup> such angles are not unexpected for these specimens. The lumbar lordosis angles for all specimens (19.4–27.2°) were within the normal range of 18–69°.<sup>49</sup> Notably, there were no visible or statistically significant correlations with thoracic kyphosis or lumbar lordosis angles and any of the coupled ROM values, a finding consistent with the observation made by Liebsch et al.<sup>10</sup> in the TS.

### 4.4 | Intra- and inter-regional differences in coupled LB and AR ROMs

After discovering a statistically significant coupling relationship between LB and AR, Wilcoxon signed-rank tests were performed to determine if one coupled motion was more prominent (i.e., had a greater ROM) than the other and if there were differences in these coupled ROMs between the TS and LS. No statistically significant differences in magnitude were found between the coupled LB and AR ROMs in any of the three spinal regions analyzed. Additionally, there were no significant differences in coupled LB or AR ROMs between the TS and LS.

### 4.5 | Limitations

The constraint offered by the rib cage on thoracic ROM has been previously reported.<sup>15,50–52</sup> While resecting a portion of the most cephalad rib necks to test some specimens may have slightly increased thoracic ROM at the corresponding level, there is no consensus on the effect of rib resection on in vitro coupling between LB and AR in the TS.<sup>15,52</sup> Additionally, the specimens from older donors used in this study were osteopenic based on their *T*-scores and may have had age-related disc degeneration that could have influenced spinal kinematics. While such effects can be reduced by using younger cadaveric specimens, there is a dearth of such samples. Nonetheless, the specimens used had an age range comparable to previous studies<sup>15,53,54</sup> and satisfied the previously mentioned radiographic screening for kinematics testing. Furthermore, due to the limited sample size, the results of this study may not capture the greater diversity in sex, age, spinal curvature, and disc degeneration observed in the human population which likely affect spine biomechanics. Future work with larger sample sizes may help quantify age- as well as sex-specific differences in coupled motion magnitudes within the TS

and LS that result from related variations in vertebral morphology.<sup>55–58</sup>

The methods used herein may also be applied to quantify the altered coupled motions of pathologic cadaveric spine specimens to better understand spinal instability resulting from altered biomechanics.

Intuitively, the results of this study lack the direct clinical utility possessed by results of in vivo studies that are influenced by the presence of other anatomical structures<sup>59</sup> as well as the neuromuscular system, a significant contributing factor to spinal coupled motion.<sup>43</sup> To better simulate physiological loading conditions, some previous in vitro studies have applied compressive preload or follower load during testing.<sup>10,53,54,60–64</sup> Although such loading conditions were not employed in the current test setup, the results of the present study provide insight into coupled motion behavior resulting from the postural and intrinsic mechanical properties of the spine in response to solely a pure moment, unaffected by the addition of other loads. Due to the complexity of applying preloads, especially when including the ribcage where standard preloading methods cannot be used,<sup>10,53</sup> solely pure moment-based testing may provide better standardization for comparing spinal kinematics data across in vitro studies. Overall, however, without recapitulating muscle forces or true in situ motion patterns, the results from in vitro studies lack the direct clinical relevance possessed by those from in vivo studies. Finally, due to differences in experimental design factors such as tissue preparation, test setup, amount of applied load, and measurement modalities, only the directionality of the coupled motion patterns observed herein could be compared with that of previous studies. Such methodological variability may partly contribute to conflicting coupled motion patterns reported previously.<sup>14</sup>

## 5 | CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this study support evidence of consistent mechanical coupled motion patterns during primary LB and AR in the TS and LS. The region-specific coupled motion patterns and magnitudes reported herein could serve as reference for validating high-fidelity computational models of the spine and assessing the influence of spinal deformities, implants, and experimental surgical techniques on kinematic characteristics of the TS and LS in future in vitro studies.

### AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All the authors have made substantial contributions. Mattan R. Orbach conceived the study design, performed data and statistical analysis, and drafted the manuscript. Brandon S. Bucklen and Jonathan Mahoney provided the specimens, and Mattan R. Orbach and Jonathan Mahoney conducted the testing and acquired the data. Mattan R. Orbach and Sriram Balasubramanian performed data interpretation, designed the presentation methods, and critically revised the manuscript for important intellectual content with input from Jonathan Mahoney and Brandon S. Bucklen. Jonathan Mahoney and Brandon S. Bucklen also supervised the study and provided administrative support. All the authors read and approved the contents in the manuscript and agree to be accountable for its accuracy and integrity.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

The authors disclose that this study was performed at Globus Medical, Inc. (GMI), using its six-degrees-of-freedom motion simulator. MRO and SB have no disclosures to report. Cadaveric specimens and related materials were provided by GMI, at which JM and BSB are salaried employees with stock options.

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## APPENDIX A

**TABLE A1** Median, first quartile (Q1), and third quartile (Q3) values of thoracic (T1–T12,  $n = 5$ ), thoracolumbar junction (T12–L1,  $n = 7$ ), and lumbar (L1–L5,  $n = 7$ ) coupled motions occurring during the positive and negative directions of each primary motion. Flexion, right lateral bending, and left axial rotation are in the positive direction. Extension, left lateral bending, and right axial rotation are in the negative direction.

			Primary FE (°)			Primary LB (°)			Primary AR (°)		
			Median	Q1	Q3	Median	Q1	Q3	Median	Q1	Q3
Thoracic (T1–T12)	Primary motion (+)	FE	16.6	15.4	18.8	−1.0	−1.6	−0.8	6.6	5.1	10.0
		LB	−0.3	−0.8	1.0	16.8	15.3	17.5	−6.9	−8.2	−3.4
		AR	−3.0	−5.6	2.3	−3.1	−5.3	2.4	27.8	26.9	31.7
	Primary motion (−)	FE	−17.5	−18.9	−16.7	−0.7	−2.3	1.2	−2.5	−5.5	−2.3
		LB	−2.1	−2.4	1.8	−18.0	−18.0	−16.6	11.1	8.7	12.3
		AR	3.4	−2.1	4.5	4.4	2.7	5.1	−31.4	−33.9	−29.0
Thoracolumbar junction (T12–L1)	Primary motion (+)	FE	1.3	1.0	1.9	−0.8	−1.2	−0.3	−0.8	−2.6	−0.5
		LB	−0.6	−0.7	0.2	1.3	1.2	1.8	−0.2	−0.5	0.4
		AR	−0.6	−1.0	1.6	0.5	−0.2	0.6	1.0	0.6	7.1
	Primary motion (−)	FE	−1.0	−1.3	−0.6	0.4	−0.1	0.5	1.3	0.8	1.6
		LB	0.8	0.4	1.3	−1.0	−1.2	−0.7	−0.6	−0.9	−0.5
		AR	0.9	−0.1	1.6	−0.5	−0.6	0.2	−0.7	−1.4	0.3
Lumbar (L1–L5)	Primary motion (+)	FE	10.2	8.5	13.6	3.2	0.7	3.5	1.2	−1.1	2.4
		LB	−1.2	−2.3	1.2	10.3	8.0	11.7	1.4	0.3	1.9
		AR	1.8	−0.3	2.8	2.2	−1.1	4.0	10.3	9.4	10.9
	Primary motion (−)	FE	−9.8	−10.0	−7.3	1.1	−2.2	1.6	2.5	1.8	3.6
		LB	−1.1	−1.8	0.2	−12.7	−12.9	−11.1	−3.7	−4.2	−3.0
		AR	−2.5	−3.4	−1.5	−2.4	−4.8	−0.5	−11.8	−12.8	−10.5

Abbreviations: AR, axial rotation; FE, flexion-extension; LB, lateral bending.